

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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UNCLAS MANILA 12842

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCON, SHUM, RP

SUBJ: EDITORIAL ATTACKS U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION

REF: MANILA 12693

1. MANILA EVENING POST OF AUGUST 15 CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL, ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF BOYCOTT OF NEXT WEEK'S WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE IN MANILA BY HUMAN RIGHTS ORIENTED LAWYERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: AFTER THE FULSOME EXPECTATIONS ENTERTAINED FOR THE FORTHCOMING WORLD LAW CONFERENCE HERE IN MANILA, WHICH CONJURED UP A VISION OF SOME 6,000 LAWYERS AND JURISTS FLOCKING TO MANILA TO DISCUSS HIGHFALUTIN MATTERS, THE BUBBLE HAD BURST WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OF THE PERSONAGES REPRESENTING THE U.S. BASED WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CENTER, CUTTING DOWN DRASTICALLY THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO ABOUT 1,000, WITH MANY AMERICAN AND CANADIAN DELEGATES BEGGING OFF.

3. INSTANT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE ACTION AVERRED THAT THE NEAR BOYCOTT WAS POLITICAL IN NATURE, ARISING DIRECTLY FROM THE REPORT MADE BY THE TWO PERSONAGES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH CATEGORICALLY CHARGED

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THAT TORTURE WAS RESORTED TO IN THE INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS AND IN THE HANDLING OF DETAINEES, AS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE. THE NEWS DISPATCH CAME OUT WHILE THE PRESIDENT WAS IN KUALA LUMPUR. WHEN QUERIED BY NEWSMEN ABOUT IT, HE QUESTIONED THE MOTIVES OF THE MEN WHO MADE THE INQUIRY, SAYING THAT THE DUO HAD NOT INDICATED THEIR FINDINGS WHILE STILL IN THIS COUNTRY SO THAT A

BROADER INVESTIGATION COULD BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY, AND THEN EXPLODE WITH THEIR OUTRAGEOUS STORIES SHORTLY AFTER REACHING THE UNITED STATES, WHERE THERE IS AN ALL TOO WILLING PRESS TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING, AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE BEFORE.

4. WHEN IT COMES TO THE MANHANDLING OF PRISONERS, THE U.S. WILL NOT TAKE A BACKSEAT TO ANY COUNTRY, EVEN IF SUCH ACTIONS DO NOT STEM FROM POLICY; RATHER, VIOLENCE IN THIS SECTOR STEMS FROM AMERICAN TRADITION. THE VIOLENCE STARTS EVEN BEFORE THE VICTIMS ARE CLAPPED INTO PRISON. AND IN PRISON THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF ATROCITIES, PERPETRATED BOTH BY THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES AND THE PERSONNEL OF THE PRISON. ONLY A FEW PENITENTIARIES IN THE U.S. CAN BE TRULY SAID TO BE CIVILIZED OR PROGRESSIVE OR HUMANITARIAN.

5. IN ANY CASE, THE BOYCOTT MAY BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE. CERTAINLY, THE CONFERENCE WILL PROFIT IF THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PARTISANS CLOGGING THE PREMISES. THE REMAINING DELEGATES MAY ALSO CONDUCT THEIR OWN ON THE SPOT INVESTIGATIONS OF PRISON CONDITIONS HERE, PARTICULARLY DETENTION CAMPS WHERE ENEMIES OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION SEE MOST OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REGULARLY ALLEGED BY U.S. MEDIA, DOUBTLESS BECAUSE OF THE NOTION THAT DETAINEES ARE POLITICAL VICTIMS. PERHAPS THEY WILL DISCOVER THE TRUTH THEN.
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6. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN THE RHUBARB BETWEEN THE LOCAL PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE CONFERENCE MACHINERY AND THE SPONSORS OF THE MEETING. IT WOULD BE A PITY IF SUCH INTRAMURALS SHOULD ABORT A HIGHLY SERVICEABLE CONFERENCE. END QUOTE.
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